

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, and 15-19 are under consideration, claims 1-8 and 12-14 having been canceled and claims 18 and 19 having been added.

Claim 9 is amended to further define the claimed invention. Claim 10 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 15-17 are amended so as to depend from claim 9. No new matter has been introduced. Support for the amendment to claim 9 can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 19-25, in original claims 12-14 which are now canceled, and in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, with objection to the phrase "rotary slot position indicator". Claim 8 is canceled and the rejection thereof is rendered moot. Claim 10 is amended in the manner suggested in the Office Action to refer to -- an indicator for a slot position --. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to have been fully overcome.

Rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,228,593 to O'Meara is not warranted, and is hereby traversed. O'Meara does not show a neck portion including a downwardly and outwardly extending circumferential ramp and a circumferential groove between the ramp and the neck portion opening, nor does O'Meara show a top portion with an elongate slot adapted to engage the grip tab (at the same time as) the ramp engages inwardly extending distal beads of the dentils so as to deflect the dentils in an outwardly direction, storing a bias force in the dentils which increases with increasing deflection of the dentils.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot with the cancellation of those claims.

Similarly, the rejection of claim 7 and the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot with the cancellation of those claims.

The rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Bloom is not warranted, and is hereby traversed. Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Claim 10 is believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 10, and for its own recitation. Neither Schmidt nor Bloom, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention in which a neck portion defining an opening includes a downwardly and outwardly extending circumferential ramp and a circumferential groove between the ramp and the opening, the circumferential groove being adapted for engagement with inwardly extending distal beads of the dentils, and the ramp being adapted for engagement with the distal beads of the dentils so as to deflect the dentils in an outwardly direction, storing a bias force in the dentils which increases with increasing deflection of the dentils (at the same time as) a top portion defining at least one elongate slot engages a grip tab.

Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over a combination of Schmidt and Gettig. The rejection of claims 12-14 is rendered moot with the cancellation of those claims. The rejection of the remaining pending claims 15-16 is not warranted and is hereby traversed. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 9 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Neither Schmidt nor Gettig, taken either alone or in combination, teach or suggest applicants' claimed arrangement in which a neck portion defining an opening includes a downwardly and outwardly extending circumferential ramp and a circumferential groove between the ramp and the opening, the circumferential groove being adapted for engagement with inwardly extending distal beads of the dentils, and the ramp being adapted for engagement with the distal beads of

the dentils so as to deflect the dentils in an outwardly direction, storing a bias force in the dentils which increases with increasing deflection of the dentils (at the same time as) a top portion defining at least one elongate slot engages a grip tab.

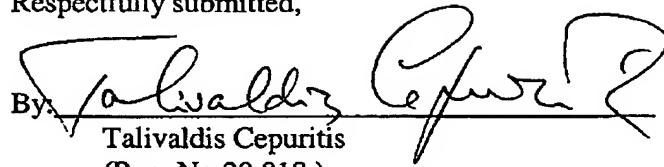
Rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over a combination of Schmidt taken in view of Gettig and further in view of O'Meara also is not warranted, and is hereby traversed. O'Meara does nothing to overcome the deficiencies of Schmidt and/or Gettig. Neither Schmidt, Gettig and O'Meara, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention in which a neck portion defining an opening includes a downwardly and outwardly extending circumferential ramp and a circumferential groove between the ramp and the opening, the circumferential groove being adapted for engagement with inwardly extending distal beads of the dentils, and the ramp being adapted for engagement with the distal beads of the dentils so as to deflect the dentils in an outward direction storing a bias force in the dentils which increases with increasing deflection of the dentils (at the same time as) a top portion defining at least one elongate slot engages a grip tab.

The references cited but not applied against the claims have been reviewed with interest. These references do not vitiate the patentability of the present claims, however.

The present amendments to the claims and the accompanying discussion are deemed to dispose of all issues in this case, and to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment in response to a final rejection of the claims is believed to be proper. Entry of this amendment is also believed proper because it places the application in a better condition for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

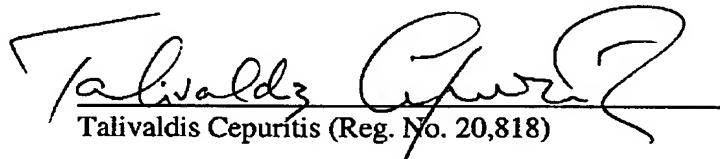
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By: 
Talivaldis Cepuritis
(Reg. No. 20,818)

OLSON & HIERL, LTD.
20 North Wacker Drive, 36th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 580-1180

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER RULE 116 is being transmitted by facsimile transmission to Fax No. 571-273-8300 on August 4, 2005.


Talivaldis Cepuritis (Reg. No. 20,818)